

Message Text

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E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, US, DA
SUBJ: US-EC DIALOGUE - THE GYMnich FORMULA

1. IN PREPARATION FOR, AND DURING THE COURSE OF BOB HOMME'S
MAY 31 CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DANISH MFA, WE ENGAGED THE DANES
IN A DISCUSSION OF THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE "GYMNICH FOR-
MULA". BEFORE SUMMARIZING THESE DISCUSSIONS, IT MIGHT BE WELL
TO REPEAT THE WORKING OF THE FORMULA AS AGREED AT THE FIRST
INFORMAL MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AT GYMnich, FRG, IN
APRIL 1974:

"EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA QUESTION DES CONSULTATIONS DES NEUF
PAR L'ENTREMISE DE LA PRESIDENCE AVEC LES ETATS ALLIES OU
AMIS LES MINISTRES SE SONT ENTENDUS DE PROCEDER D'UNE FACON
PRAGMATIQUE ET CAS PER CAS. SI US DES PARTENAIRES SOULEVE LA
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QUESTION DE L'INFORMATION ET DE LA CONSULTATION D'UN ETAT
ALLIE OU AMI LES NEUF EN DISCUTERONT ET CHARGERONT, APRES
CONSENSUS, LA PRESIDENCE D'Y PROCEDER SUR LA BASE DE CELUICI".
THIS TEXT WAS GIVEN TO US BY MFA PRESIDENCY OFFICER CHRIS
BRAMSEN.

2. BRAMSEN COMMENTED THAT THE FORMULA WAS BROAD ENOUGH TO

COVER MANY "SINS" AND THAT IT ALLOWS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE FOR INTERPRETATION BY THE COUNTRY THAT HOLDS THE PRESIDENCY. AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE, THE QUESTION OF WHAT SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES ALMOST NEVER ARISES IN THE VARIOUS EC POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETINGS. NOR DOES THE PRESIDENCY MFA BUREAUCRACY KEEP THE OTHER EIGHT SPECIFICALLY INFORMED OF WHAT IS BEING PASSED TO THE UNITED STATES.

3. EXCEPT FOR THE FORMULA ITSELF, THERE IS LITTLE OR NOTHING WRITTEN DOWN ABOUT HOW THE US-EC POLITICAL DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. BRAMSEN OBSERVED THAT ITS PRACTICE HAS EVOLVED MUCH IN THE SAME WAY AS ENGLISH COMMON LAW. THUS THE DANES HAVE BEEN WILLING TO PROVIDE US WITH EXTENSIVE READOUTS NOT ONLY ON MATTERS OF "EXTERNAL" POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE EC AND THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO ON INTERNAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS ENLARGEMENT. BRAMSEN COMMENTED THAT WHILE THE DANES ARE WILLING TO SHOW US EC-9 INTERNAL DOCUMENTS, THEY HESITATE TO GIVE US COPIES OF THEM. (THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, DONE SO ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.)

4. BRAMSEN ADDED THAT THE DANISH PRESIDENCY MARKED THE COMPLETION OF THE FIRST FULL CYCLE OF THE PRESIDENCY ROTATION SINCE THE GYMnich MEETING IN 1974.

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